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<NEWS TICKER>

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Venezuela: Shooting Reported Near Presidential Palace

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[Text] A surprise situation has just taken place -- at 1535 -- at the Miraflores Presidential Palace. A shootout has just taken place. The shooting is originating from the hills behind the 23 de Enero neighborhood and is being directed at the presidential palace.

On your screen you can see what is happening here in the vicinity of the Miraflores Presidential Palace, from where the president left for the La Casona presidential residence.

You are hearing and seeing what is happening here, near the Miraflores Presidential Palace, where guards have mobilized to confront any irregular situation that might arise this afternoon.

Just when it was believed that the situation was under control in Caracas, this situation has suddenly occurred. [shooting is heard in the background]

We, the representatives of the media, have made a big effort to reach this area, from where we are filming these scenes. As you can see, we are confronted with an unforeseen situation, as it had been reported that the city was under the control of the national Armed Forces.

We will now have to see if the president of the Republic will go back to the Miraflores Palace or if he will stay in La Casona. At any rate, the minister of the Central Office of Information is scheduled to make an announcement at 1600. A speech by the president also had been announced for 1900.

You can see how people are running here, and how there is shooting in this area close to the presidential palace. The scenes speak for themselves. We are making a big effort to report live and direct on this situation near the Miraflores Presidential Palace.

Right now, the military troops -- but we do not know who they follow; we no longer know who is who here -- are getting very close to the Miraflores Presidential Palace, under the bridge close to the palace.

These shots are being fired very close to where we are, and it is said that civilians are shooting. Can you hear what is happening here, after the Armed Forces had said everything was under control? [more shooting heard]

We have been told that there are three civilians...[pauses] There is great confusion between civilians and military. Someone is

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shooting from the Miraflores Palace in that direction, and here we are in the middle of this situation. We are going back to our studios, and will return later from the Miraflores Presidential Palace.

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